

REMARKS

The drawings (Fig. 1) are amended to comply with the disclosure and claim 7. A clean copy and a copy showing the changes in red are attached. It is respectfully submitted that the biaxial stretch of a film (as the film's property, and not the operation of stretching) is not visible and thus cannot be properly represented in the drawing.

The disclosure is amended to correct a minor typographical error.

The priority document is attached.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102 (b) over Kojima '392, it is respectfully submitted that the reference does not teach an optical waveplate. The word "waveplate" cannot be found in the Kojima specification, there is no reference to polarization rotation, and neither are there any teachings leading a person versed in the art to apply the information from the Kojima reference to waveplates.

Kojima teaches a reflecting screen in which certain polymeric sheets, including polyethylene naphthalate sheet or plate, can be used as substrate 11 for a photodiffusion layer 12. The thickness of the substrate is shown as 50-500 μm , which is suitable for the purpose of the substrate but well beyond the range useful for optical waveplates of the present invention.

Additionally, Kojima never teaches any other properties of the waveplate of the present invention such as biaxial stretching.

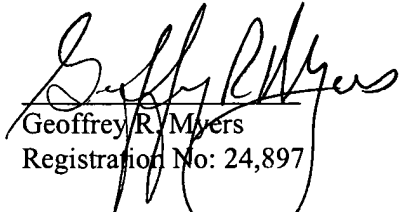
In the absence of any teaching or suggestion, the rejection of claim 1 over Kojima is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 USC 103 (a) over Kojima and Ando, there is no teaching in either Kojima nor Ando to replace a polyimide waveplate with PEN. It is clearly indicated in the present specification, paragraph [6], that the choice of polymers is substantial and it is not obvious to use PEN without the benefit of hindsight provided by the present invention.

In view of the above amendments and argument, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

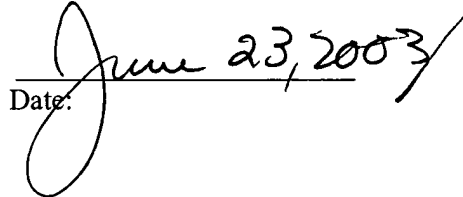
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No: 50-1465.

Respectfully,


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